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Mexico, collected by Mr. Forrer in 1887. Specimens were sent me by Prof. Greene. It occurs along the Andes of South America from Ecuador to Argentina. (Spruce, 5,904; Mandon, 1,394; Rusby, 100).

CYPERUS BLODGETTII, n. sp. Section Mariscus. Perennial, from a tuberous thickened base, 8'-9' high. Roots fibrous; leaves linear, 3'-4' long, about 1'' wide, glabrous, smooth on the edges; culm sharply triangular; involucre of about three leaves, 1'-2½' long; inflorescence of 1-3 dense globose heads, 5''-8'' in diameter; spikelets 20-40, 6-10-flowered, the lowest glume empty, the others fertile; glumes keeled, oval or ovate, obtusish, strongly about 9-nerved, about ½'' long; achenium oblong, about two-thirds the length of the glume, triangular; falling away with the glumes from the rachis at maturity; rachis strongly scarred with the bases of the flowers; stamens three?

Key West, Mr. Blodgett (Herb. Torrey and Herb. Gray).

I went over this species with Mr. Clarke at Kew in 1888 and we decided that it must be new. Mr. Clarke, maintaining that *Mariscus* is distinct as a genus from *Cyperus*, proposed calling it *M. avenicola*, and if this view is to be adopted, the plant may bear this name. But I have not been able to agree with him in this respect. The species appears nearest to *C. Grayii*.

#### The Flora of the Summit of Mt. Monadnock, N. H., in July.

Mt. Monadnock lies in Cheshire County, in the southwestern part of New Hampshire, and can be reached in four hours from Boston, Mass., thus bringing a most interesting botanical region within easy access to lovers of botany. A few words as to the vegetation on the immediate summit may prove of interest. The mountain is 3169 feet high and rears its bald head into the sub-alpine region, thus presenting botanical features much resembling those about the Half Way House, on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire.

I visited the top of Monadnock, July 22nd, 1889, on a beautiful clear day. The thick woods that clothe the slopes of the mountain cease within a half mile of the summit and the bold, bare rocks, with many an overhanging cliff, afford no easy ascent, though a rough pathway has been traced to the top for visitors to the Mountain House, which lies nestled among the trees a mile

from the summit. The view from the summit is magnificent. Dense forests, sparkling lakes, rolling hills, and towns half hidden among the trees, offer a restful picture to the eye. The plants found on the hoary head of the old mountain scarcely exceed a foot in height. The prominent feature consists of *Juncus trifidus*, which grows in small, dense, tough patches between the rocks, and was in good fruiting condition when I gathered it. I was obliged to use my trowel as a hatchet, to hack out pieces of the hard, dry sod. *Poa serotina*, which varies so much in different localities, formed a turf several feet square, by a small pool of surface water, within a few yards of the very summit. The grass, which was of special interest to me, however, and which I met for the first time, at this spot, was *Poa nemoralis*, [*Poa cæsia*, var. *strictior* of the Gray Manual, 5th edition]. It formed a dense sod of several square feet, in a few spots, between the massive boulders. I feasted my eyes upon this interesting grass, which is certainly not common, and stretched out at full length upon it to eat my lunch. The pretty *Arenaria Grænlandica* was in full flower and grew some distance down the mountain side, forming small patches of snowy white. *Solidago Virga-aurea*, var. *alpina* was very abundant, in full bloom, growing here and there in profusion. The plants were from 2 to 6 inches in height and the radical leaves were fully developed. These leaves varied very much in shape, from almost orbicular with margined petioles to narrowly spatulate and pointed. On the damp slopes about the summit, *Rhodora* was abundant in fruit and, by a clear, cool spring of crystal water, but a minute's scramble down the rocks, I found *Ledum latifolium*, *Carex canescens*, var. *alpicola* was growing from the mountain top to nearly as far down as the Mountain House, while *Potentilla tridentata* was very abundant on the rocks everywhere, in full flower. I found this plant growing abundantly in an open meadow in Jaffrey, N. H., on August 11th, the fruit having fully matured. Creeping up very close to the summit and just perfecting its bright red berries, was *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*. It is called Mountain Cranberry and certainly makes an excellent sauce. Expertus dico. A small form of *Eriophorum gracile* was growing among rich sphagnum by a small pool.

These were the phænogamous features of the top of the moun-

tain, within a few rods of the very highest point, and though they do not embrace plants of any special rarity, yet they were of interest to me, as being just what one would expect to find at such an elevation. The absence of any shade whatever and of any rich soil, to any extent, of course excludes many plants that otherwise would be found. On the way up the mountain, in the rich woods, I collected *Ribes rubrum* in fruit, and *Streptopus amplexifolius* was very abundant. Its coral red berries make it a very attractive plant.

WALTER DEANE.

### The Pinnatifid Leaves of *Nasturtium Armoracia*.

In Gray's Manual, revised edition, the leaves of this species are described as follows: "Root-leaves very large, oblong, crenate, *rarely* pinnatifid." My observations on the plant, conducted during a long and bitter struggle with it in my garden, lead me to conclude that the pinnatifid leaves are not rare, but periodical in their appearance. The order of the foliation of the plant, as noted by me for the past three years, is as follows: Early in the spring the leaves are small, dissected or dissected pinnatifid. Those next in order are larger and have broader lobes, and after a short time these in turn are succeeded by the broad or summer leaves. Often a single plant will have a series of leaves showing a complete gradation from the dissected to the broad blade. The broad leaves are characteristic of the summer state of the plant, and I have never seen a pinnatifid leaf in midsummer. Early in the fall the new leaves as they appear have more deeply crenate-toothed margins, and as the season advances, many of the plants send out truly pinnatifid leaves again. There are indications that this would be the case with all if the season of growth were longer, for the buds of all usually contain undeveloped pinnatifid leaves when the frost kills the foliage. In October of the present year, every plant, in over forty which I examined, had some of the leaves pinnatifid. As the plant appears in our gardens there is no assignable cause for so marked a change of foliage. The history of the plant, so far as I can find out, is silent as to its habits in the wild state, but it prefers, in this country, rich wet ground, rarely thriving on high and dry soils. This fact, taken in connection with others, as the habits of allied